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PATENT  
1377-0156P

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Applicant: Thomas Valentine MCCARTHY et al.

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Appl. No.: 09/673,739

Group: 1635 TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Filed: October 20, 2000

Examiner: Unassigned

For: A METHOD FOR THE CHARACTERIZATION OF  
NUCLEIC ACID MOLECULES INVOLVING  
GENERATION OF EXTENDIBLE UPSTREAM DNA  
FRAGMENTS RESULTING FROM THE CLEAVAGE OF  
NUCLEIC ACID AT AN ABASIC SITE

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

May 1, 2001

Sir:

The following preliminary amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

In the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 30, line 3, with the following rewritten paragraph:

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Cm+  
An equal volume of formamide loading dye (90% formamide, 0.025% bromophenol blue, 0.025% xylene cyanol) was added to the sample which was then heated at 85°C for 5 min. The sample was then loaded onto a 20% denaturing (7M urea) polyacrylamide gel and electrophoresis was carried out for 3-4 hours at 60W for size analysis of the extension products. Following electrophoresis,